[20th August 1925

(b) whether the necessary levels, etc., were taken about the year 1915 and an order was passed then that the work would be taken up in times of famine conditions;

(c) whether it is a fact that three tanks can be filled with water from the anicut and a large area can be irrigated out of the lands which are partly irrigated and partly unirrigated at present;

(d) whether the villagers have agreed to pay some contributions towards the construction of the dam and the channels; and

(e) whether the Government are prepared to take up the work at once and if not in what stage the matter is at present and what view the Government have in the matter?

A.—The Government have no information, but have called for a report.

Landlord and Tenant.

Select Committee on the Malabar Tenancy Bill.

* 173 Q.—Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao: With reference to the Select Committee meeting held at Ootacamund in May 1925 to discuss the Malabar Tenancy Bill, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the total amount of travelling allowances and other allowances drawn by the Members of the said Committee?

A.—A sum of Rs. 4,941–10–0 has been drawn till now as travelling allowance and daily allowance by the members of the Select Committee. The outstanding claims, if preferred, will bring the total amount to about Rs. 6,217–3–0.

Fixity of tenure to the tenants under ryotwari landlords.

* 174 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to refer to the answer given to question No. 648 on 24th March 1925 (Volume XXIII, page 621) and to place before the House a summary of correspondence on the subject of giving fixity of tenure to tenants under ryotwari landlords and state in what year the final orders were passed and for what reasons?

A.—The Government decided in 1914 after a detailed inquiry that legislative interference on behalf of tenants in ryotwari tracts was unnecessary. The correspondence is confidential and cannot be placed on the table of the House.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know why the correspondence is treated as confidential? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" These inquiries were set on foot in pursuance of a requisition from the Government of India. If the majority or a large number of members of this hon. House require that all the correspondence should be placed on the table of the House, we shall have to get the leave of the Government of India."

Legislative.

Representation of the backward areas in the Legislative Council.

* 175 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state who represents in the Legislative Council the backward areas?